

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BELGRA 01966 220730Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01

IO-10 SAJ-01 /069 W

----- 115379

R 220705Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2611

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 1966

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YOU BU

SUBJ: BILIC LAYS IT ON THE LINE RE WWII

REF: BELGRADE 1936

1. IN AN APR 20 SPEECH AT VROPOLJE, CROATIA, LCY CC EXEC COMMITTEE MEMBER AND EXCOM CADRE CHIEF JURE BILIC BLUNTLY SPELLED OUT THE YUGOSLAV PERCEPTION OF THE MOTIVE BEHIND ATTEMPTS TO BELITTLE YUGOSLAV PARTISAN PARTICIPATION IN WWII.

2. SPEAKING AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY UNVEILING A MEMORIAL TO FALLEN COMBATANTS, BILIC PAID TRIBUTE TO OTHERS IN THE ANTI-HITLERIST

COALITION, "PARTICULARLY THE SOVIET UNION, WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VICTIMS". BUT, BILIC CONTINUED "WE WANT OUR OWN VICTIMS NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN, NOT IN ORDER TO THINK PERMANENTLY OF THE PAST, BUT BECAUSE OF OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE."

3. AFTER TRACTING THE ROLE OF THE BULGARIAN FATHERLAND FRONT TROOPS WHICH "COMRADE TITO AND THE SUPREME COMMAND ALLOWED" TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUTH-EAST PARTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, BILIC ASKED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BELGRA 01966 220730Z

"WHO ARE THEY, TRYING NOW TO USE HISTORICAL TRUTHS FOR

POLITICAL SPECULATIONS?" ASKING RHETORICALLY THE MEANING OF "WE HAVE SET YOU FREE" (A REFERENCE TO BULGARIAN CLAIMS TO HAVE LIBERATED LARGE PARTS OF YUGOSLAVIA), BILIC SAID "THIS MEANS THAT TOMORROW WE HAVE A RIGHT TO YOU; THIS MEANS THAT TOMORROW THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO RETURN, TOMORROW PARTICULARLY WHEN THE EXISTENCE OF A PEOPLE OR NATION IS BEING DENIED, IN THE CASE OF MACEDONIA AND THE MACEDONIANS." BILIC CONCLUDED THAT "WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE SLOGAN THEREFORE IN A WAY OTHER THAN AS A CLAIM TO OUR TERRITORY."

4. THIS IS AS CLEAR A PUBLIC EXPOSITION AS WE HAVE SEEN OF WHAT REALLY UNDERLIES THE YUGOSLAV IRE OVER THIS ISSUE. AND SINCE THEY BELIEVE THE BULGARIANS ACT AS A SURROGATE FOR THE SOVIETS IN THIS MATTER, BILIC'S ADMONITION THAT VICTIMS SHOULD BE REMEMBERED NOT BECAUSE OF THE PAST BUT BECAUSE OF "OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE" IS A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT THE LEADERSHIP DOES NOT VIEW THIS AS AN HISTORICAL DEBATE.

MILLER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, WORLD WAR II
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELGRA01966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750140-0583
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750426/aaaaaxzt.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BELGRADE 1936
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILIC LAYS IT ON THE LINE RE WWII
TAGS: PFOR, YO, BU, (BILIC, JURE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006